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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly's 47th Annual Bull Test Sale on Campus This Weekend

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cattle buyers, breeders and ranchers from across the state will converge at Cal Poly Saturday and Sunday (Oct. 4-5) for the university's 47th Annual Field Day and Tested Bull Sale.

On Saturday the field day will be at the College of Agriculture Livestock Pavilion on Via Carta on campus. Cattlemen and women will get an introduction to the Cal Poly beef program and choose from advanced technology workshops on such topics as DNA collection and electronic identification. Events will begin with registration at 9 a.m. in the Livestock Judging Pavilion.

The field day also includes a commercial trade show, refreshments, lunch and a "bull session," which gives buyers and consignors time to preview bulls and horses up for auction at Sunday's Tested Bull Sale. Saturday evening, the annual barbecue at Alex Madonna's Alberti Ranch will kick off with an auction benefiting the Collegiate Cattlemen's Club, the Cal Poly Livestock Judging Team and the Block & Bridle Club.

The 47th Annual Cal Poly All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale begins at 8 a.m. Sunday in the university's Livestock Judging Pavilion with inspection of the bulls.

"The bull test is a breeder-financed program set up to identify and improve the quality of beef cattle," said Animal Science Professor Mike Hall, a beef cattle specialist.

This year's test began with 289 bulls. Only the top half of the bulls make the sale after a 100-day evaluation of their performance and structural and reproductive soundness.

"The test bulls are kept at Cal Poly in large hillside lots, with water located at the top of the hill, forcing the bulls to exercise," Hall said. "They are fed a diet causing them to gain an average of three pounds a day during their year at Cal Poly."

"That weight gain figure has proved to allow the bulls to manifest their genetic differences while at the same time remaining in a hardy, 'range-ready' condition," Hall said.

The bull test auction begins at 1 p.m., followed by a horse sale. The cattle and horses are presented for sale already immunized, with full birth weight, average daily weight, body conformation and fertility assessment

records.

Cattle breeds available for auction will be Low-Birth-Weight Angus, Multi-Trait Angus, Charolais, Red Angus, Simmental Composite, Brangus, Angus, Hereford, Continental Composite, Gelbvieh, Simmental and Limousin.

For details and registration, contact the Cal Poly Animal Science Department at (805) 748-4717, or visit the Cal Poly Bull Test Web site, <http://bulltest.lib.calpoly.edu>.

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